



Atty. Dkt. No. 062834-0179

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APR

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: George H. HOFFMAN, et al.

Title: SYSTEM, METHOD AND COMPUTER PROGRAM  
PRODUCT FOR A SUPPLIER INTERFACE IN A SUPPLY  
CHAIN MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Appl. No.: 09/815,731

Filing Date: 03/23/2001

Examiner: Florian M. Zeender

Art Unit: 3627

To be  
entered  
FR. 6/20/05

**APPELLANT'S REPLY BRIEF**

Mail Stop: Appeal Brief - Patents  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

The following is Appellant's Reply Brief, submitted under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.192 in response to the Examiner's Answer dated March 22, 2005.

Applicants continue to stand on their Appeal Brief. However, certain arguments have been advanced by the examiner that bear response.

**Group 1:**

A key element in claim 1 and other claims in Group 1 is the limitation

*"comparing an amount of raw materials sold to a store and the predicted amount of raw materials for the given level of sales of goods, to thereby provide an indication of a level of discrepancy."*

The examiner states that his principle reference Hafner does not teach this claimed comparison. The examiner states that this limitation "is anticipated" ?? by Salvo (U.S. 6,341,271). The examiner states that Salvo et al. at column 11, line 13 teaches monitoring